

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 101600Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1980 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0013

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV CA US

SUBJECT: MAINE-CANADIAN TIES: PRESS REPORT

1. JAN 10 HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD CARRIED STORY
DATELINED AUGUSTA, MAINE, REPORTING TESTIMONY GIVEN
BY SPEAKER JOHN L MARTIN OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BEFORE LEGISLATURE S STATE GOVT COMMITTEE
IN FAVOR OF A BILL HE HAS PROPOSED TO CREATE A SEVEN-
MEMBER COMMISSION TO "ENCOURAGE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE MAINE LEGISLATURE AND THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF
THE CANADIAN PROVINCES". HE STATED HE BELIEVES
MAINE LEGISLATORS NEED AN AGENCY TO HANDLE LEGISLATURE-
TO-LEGISLATURE COMMUNICATIONS SINCE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN
THAT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG "BUREAUCRATS" HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS.

2. AMONG CURRENT PROBLEMS AND ISSUES, MARTIN
BELIEVES COMMISSION HE PROPOSES COULD HELP RESOLVE
THOSE DEALING WITH SPRUCE BUDWORM CONTROL, THE ATLANTIC
FISHERIES, AND TRUCK LICENSING. SOME OF HIS VIEWS
ON THESE ISSUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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--MAINE CAN ONLY GUESS WHAT QUEBEC OR OTHER
NEIGHBORING PROVINCES MIGHT DECIDE TO DO ABOUT
BUDWORM SPRAYING. THE NEW COMMISSION MIGHT ALERT
MAINE TO POSSIBLE PROVINCIAL DECISIONS. IN THIS
CONNECTION HE SAID, "IF QUEBEC, FOR EXAMPLE, DETERMINES
THERE WILL BE NO SPRAYING FOR SPRUCE BUDWORM, IT MAKES
ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE FOR THE STATE OF MAINE TO APPROPRIATE

ONE DIME FOR SPRAYING. OUR FORESTS ARE JUST TOO CLOSE."

--WITH REFERENCE TO THE FISHERIES, "THERE CAN BE A TREMENDOUS INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE PROVINCES AND THE STATE OF MAINE." MAINE STATE DEPT HEADS ARE NOT WORKING WITH THE CANADIAN PROVINCES ON JOINT FISHERIES CONCERNS, "TO THE STATE S DETRIMENT," HE SAID.

--MAINE TRUCKERS ARE "UPTIGHT" ABOUT QUEBEC S REQUIREMENT FOR A TRUCKING PERMIT AND THE NEW COMMISSION COULD REMIND QUEBEC LEGISLATORS THAT MAINE COULD RETALIATE WITH A PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR QUEBEC TRUCKERS TRAVELLING IN MAINE.

3. NEW COMMISSION IS NEEDED, MARTIN BELIEVES, BECAUSE MAINE STATE ATTY-GEN RULED LAST FALL THAT NINE-MEMBER MAINE-CANADIAN EXCHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION CREATED BY LEGISLATURE IN 1975 IS IN VIOLATION OF STATE CONSTITUTION SINCE IT IS DESIGNATED AS AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY DESPITE FACT THAT ONLY THREE OF ITS MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR WHILE SIX ARE APPOINTED BY LEGISLATURE.
MOORE

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